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not limiting his recollection to the one episode of the *Bellum Octavianum*, but rather extending it to the entire period of the civil war, of which it was a part. The general meaning, then, of lines 30–33, as I understand them, is that the violent measures of that turbulent period, foretold by many portents, some of them distinctive and unusual, at last (*tandem*, i.e., with the final victory of Sulla) failed, years ago (*lapsu vetusto*), but that similar revolutionary attempts (*haec*) will recur (*fore*) during the consulship of Cicero is predicted by Jupiter in clear and repeated (*frequentans*) portents. Or, in mathematical form: as the portents of 87 were related to the events of that and the following years, so the portents of 63 are in relation to the still unknown events of that and succeeding years. This explanation robs *vetusto* of much of its difficulty, for it is hardly necessary to object to its use, in the free language of verse, for events of a score of years previous; it well explains the word *tandem*; it avoids the confusion of sign and thing signified by taking both *ea* and *haec* as events; and, more than all, it adds greatly to the striking character of the situation by equating the petty Catilinarian conspiracy with the tremendous struggle of the civil war between Marius and Sulla.¹ That Cicero really made such comparisons a well-known passage in the third oration against Catiline² shows us.

ARTHUR STANLEY PEASE

Anthologia Palatina xv. 23

Mr. W. R. Paton in his translation of the Greek Anthology, Vol. 5 (Loeb Classical Library), says of the foregoing epigram, which is inscribed "On the Book of Marcus" (*Εἰς τὴν βιβλίον Μάρκου*): "Nothing is known regarding it." The epigram refers to the *Meditations* of Marcus Aurelius; it occurs as a "Subscriptio" to the Codex Vaticanus of Marcus Aurelius, and is quoted by Salmasius (*ad Vulcacii Gallicani Avidium Cassium* c. 3. 7) as having been found by him "in vetustis membranis"; cf. Gataker (London, 1697), two pages before the *Annotationes* on the text; the information is also contained on the last page of Leopold's Oxford edition.

W. D. WOODHEAD

¹ Perhaps in the earlier part of the poem this comparison had been more fully developed. If so the rather casual allusion in ll. 30–33 would have been clearer to the reader.

² 24. Although, with characteristic vanity, he considers the plot of Catiline far more momentous than all other *dissensiones* with which he compares it. That Cornelius Lentulus, from a different standpoint, drew somewhat parallel comparisons is shown by Sall. *Cat.* 47. 2: "ex libris Sibyllinis regnum Romae tribus Corneliis portendi: Cinnam atque Sullam antea, se tertium esse, cui fatum foret urbis potiri; praeterea ab incenso Capitolio illum esse vigesimum annum, quem saepe ex prodigiis aruspices respondissent bello civili cruentum fore."